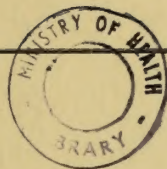


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CHESTERTON RURAL DISTRICT
in the
Administrative County of Cambridgeshire

A N N U A L R E P O R T
of the
M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H
Including Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector
for
1 9 5 8

CHESTERTON RURAL DISTRICT

in the

Administrative County of Cambridgeshire

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Including Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

for

1958

GENERAL STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area : Land	111,692 acres
Number of Parishes	52
Rateable Value (1/4/59)	£408,999
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,590
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books (1/4/59)	13,268
Estimated mid-year Home Population	42,450
Census Population 1951	38,645

The district is agricultural and the main occupations are those associated with farming, fruit growing and jam making.

Birth Rate	17.6
(Corrected)	18.7

Death Rate	11.2
(Corrected)	9.1

Infant mortality Rate	24.1
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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman : Councillor Captain F. Johnson, J.P.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor F. W. Flinders.

Councillors :

Adams, F. J.P.	Mander, P. H. (from September, 1958)
Austin, W. H.	Manning, M. A. (from May, 1858)
Aves, L. H.	Milton, Mrs. M. L. (to May, 1958)
Barker, R.	Newton, Maj. Gen. T.C., C.B., D.S.O., J.P.
Bavester, L. M. (from May, 1958)	Norman, C. A.
Brown, Mrs. M.	Pease, M. S., M.A.
Cheason, Mrs. A. M. (to April, 1958)	Peel-Yates, Mrs. M.
Cole, C. W. H.	Pemberton, Mrs. D. P.
Cooper, R. C. (to May, 1958)	Porteous, Mrs. D.
Cundell, A. (to November, 1958)	Richardson, R. B.
Currington, H. G.	Robinson, T. B.
Francis, Col. J. C. W.	Robinson, W. F.
Frankham, Mrs. D.	Thulborn, R. W.
Gingell, H. (to May, 1958)	Tilbrook, C. H.
Hayhow, A. (to June, 1958)	Turkentine, Mrs. D.
Hopkins, P. N. J.	Waddelow, H. G.
Hurrell, Mrs. M.	Walker, D. L.
Johnson, C. E. (to May, 1958)	Walkling, E. J.
Jopling, J., M.B.E.	Watson, J. G.
King, P. F., M.B.E., M.A.	Wilkin, S. W., J.P.
Lewin, Mrs. M. V. V. (from May, 1958)	Wordingham, S. L. C.
Macfarlane-Grieve, G. M., M.A.	

Staff :

Medical Officer of Health	— P. A. Tyser, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector	— E. B. Newman, A.R.S.H., F.P.H.I.A., A.M.I.P.H.E.
District Inspectors	— N. D. Addison, A.R.S.H., M.P.H.I.A., A.M.I.P.H.E.
	— J. Holford, M.R.S.H.
Clerk	— Mrs. M. O. Good.

To the Chairman and Members
of the
Chesterton Rural District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This report is prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 22/58 dated 9th December, 1958, and is the last I shall be writing for you as on 1st March, 1959, I take up my appointment as County Medical Officer, Cambridgeshire County Council. My successor, Dr. J. Drummond, takes up his appointment on 1st April and although he will be presenting this report the substance of it is of my own devising.

Vital Statistics

Once again the population of the district has risen and now stands at 42,450, a rise of 600 persons over last year. There has been a slight fall in the birth rate and a small rise in the death rate, neither change has any particular significance. The infant mortality rate, however, nearly doubled itself, rising from 13.5 to 24.1 infant deaths per thousand live births, and is the highest rate for the last five years. There is no ready explanation for this except it will be noted that last year all the infant deaths were in the first four weeks of life and numbered 10, whilst this year there are 12 (this would not be an unusual fluctuation) but this year there are also another 6 deaths of infants over one month old and under 12 months. Examination of the causes of these six deaths shows that in the case of 3 a serious congenital defect was present and in the other three it is unlikely they could have been prevented. Amongst the new calculations made this year at the request of the Ministry will be seen illustrated the well-known fact that the illegitimate infant mortality rate exceeds the legitimate rate.

Infectious Disease

Both Sonne and Flexner types of dysentery caused trouble at Fulbourn Hospital during the year. After many years of freedom it was singularly unfortunate that such incidents should have occurred. There is no doubt that the Sonne dysentery was imported, but the Flexner outbreak is considered to have been of indigenous origin. Reports on both outbreaks have been submitted to the Ministry of Health. In both instances the earliest possible notification was given to me and the fullest co-operation was afforded by all concerned, to whom I record my gratitude.

Local Government Act

With the passing of the Local Government Act 1958 and the setting up of the Local Government Commission to review areas of local government in England and Wales once again raises the question of the extent of the boundaries of various authorities. No doubt 1959 will be a year of considerable polemic. Whatever may be the motives or considerations of varying authorities it should be kept well in mind that the basis of local government in this county stems from a need to provide areas for health administration. There is no higher law than the health of the people and any alterations in areas should be in the main towards enabling more efficient and adequate services to be run for the benefit of the community.

Sanitary Circumstances

During the year a review was undertaken of the Council's five year slum clearance programme. Some interesting information was produced on the existing housing needs of the district and details are given under the section on Housing in the report (page 12). It is gratifying to report that apart from three huts remaining in use at the beginning of 1959, the hutment problem has been cleared. In view of the large proportion of three bedroomed houses in the Council's ownership the need for accommodation suitable for single old people and elderly couples becomes increasingly pressing.

Good progress continues to be made with water borne sewage facilities in the denser areas of the district.

Much discussion has taken place during the year upon the Minister's request for rationalisation of water undertakings and proposals are now before him for the formation of a Joint Board, details of which are given in the section on Water Supplies (page 16). No parish is now without the amenity of a piped water supply.

The improvement of food hygiene in the district continues to make steady progress. It is, however, irritating to shopkeepers who are strictly adhering to the law to see done by their customers those things they are forbidden to do ; smoking over open food is a good example of bad customer-manners.

After the big fight for both clean and safe milk one looks forward to the day when it will be universally provided for domestic use in an expendable container such as a waxed carton.

Staff

The staffing position remains as for the previous year, a vacancy on the establishment being yet unfilled. Once again it is a pleasure to record my indebtedness to the public health inspectors for their diligent, enthusiastic and loyal work.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

P. A. TYSER, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

July 1959.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

(The mid-year home population is used for the statistical calculations.)

Live Births

							Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	367	351	718
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	10	28
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	385	361	746
Birth rate per thousand estimated population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17.6
Birth rate corrected by comparability factor (1.06)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18.7
Birth rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16.4

Still Births

							Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	7	13
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	7	14
Rate per thousand live and still births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18.4
Rate per thousand live and still births (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21.6

Deaths

							Male	Female	Total
Death rate per thousand estimated population	..	..	..	..	..	..	233	244	477
Death rate corrected by comparability factor (0.81)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.2
Death rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9.1
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.7

Infant Mortality. Deaths of infants under one year of age.

							Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	9 (5)	7 (6)	16 (11)
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	2 (1)	—	2 (1)
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	11 (6)	7 (6)	18 (12)

(Deaths of infants under four weeks of age are shown in brackets.)

Infant Mortality Rate. (Infant deaths under one year per thousand live births)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24.1
Infant Mortality Rate. (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22.5
Neonatal Mortality Rate. (Infant deaths under four weeks per thousand live births)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16.1
Legitimate Infant mortality rate per thousand legitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22.3
Illegitimate Infant mortality rate per thousand illegitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	71.4
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3.8 %
Maternal Deaths. (Deaths ascribed to pregnancy, childbirth and abortion)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per thousand live and still births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	89
Deaths from tuberculosis (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Respiratory	..	..	..	..	1 Male	Nil Female	..	..	1
Non-Respiratory	..	..	..	..	Nil Male	Nil Female	..	..	Nil
Deaths from whooping cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Deaths from influenza	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

CERTAIN COMPARATIVE RATES

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
*Birth Rate	15.8	14.7	15.4	15.7	17.7	17.6
*Death Rate	10.5	11.0	11.3	12.0	11.1	11.2
Infant Mortality Rate	11.2	15.2	11.3	18.6	13.5	24.1
	(7)	(9)	(7)	(12)	(10)	(18)

*These rates are uncorrected. The figures in brackets are the numbers of infant deaths in each year.

TABLE CLASSIFYING DEATHS UNDER AGE GROUPS

<i>Ages</i>							<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 1 year	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	7	18
1 and under 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
2 and under 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
5 and under 15	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
15 and under 25	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
25 and under 35	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	6	8
35 and under 45	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	12	20
45 and under 55	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	9	24
55 and under 65	..	..	..	..	..	..	35	18	53
65 and under 75	..	..	..	..	..	..	62	53	115
75 and over	..	..	..	..	..	..	97	138	235
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	233	244	477

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Medical Officer of Health

“ The Cambridgeshire United District (Medical Officer of Health) Order, 1951 ” provides for the appointment of a medical officer of health to the Chesterton, Newmarket and South Cambridgeshire Rural District Councils.

Under the present arrangements this officer is also appointed deputy county and school medical officer to the Cambridgeshire County Council.

It is convenient to record here that from 1st January, 1958, your Medical Officer of Health has held an honorary consultant appointment in Social and Preventive Medicine at Fulbourn Hospital.

Public Health Inspectors

Mr. E. B. Newman remains as Chief Public Health Inspector with Mr. N. D. Addison and Mr. J. Holford to assist him.

Laboratory Facilities

Chemical and bacteriological examinations of water are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge. The Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge, undertakes bacteriological and biological examinations of milk and bacteriological examinations of water samples, and all necessary examinations in cases of infectious diseases.

Hospitals

Cases of infectious disease are treated at the Isolation Hospital, Cambridge. So far as general hospitals are concerned, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, deals with the majority of cases from this area. The only hospitals in the area are the Mental Hospital at Fulbourn and that for the treatment of tuberculosis in connection with the Papworth Village Settlement.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1958

There is little to comment upon under this section this year except with regard to dysentery and food poisoning.

Dysentery

One hundred and twenty-four cases were reported during the year. Sixty-seven of these cases were due to Sonne dysentery and occurred in the first quarter of the year, twenty-four in Fulbourn Hospital and forty-three in the adjoining village. The outbreak in the village preceded that in the hospital and there is little doubt infection was taken into the hospital where the men's sick ward was the most affected unit.

In the last quarter of the year 38 cases of Flexner dysentery, type Z, occurred amongst female patients (32 cases) and staff (6 cases) in Fulbourn Hospital. This type of dysentery has occurred in the hospital before but has not been so widespread for a long time.

As already noted reports were submitted to the Ministry on both these outbreaks. The remaining cases were of the Sonne type of dysentery and occurred sporadically during the year.

Food Poisoning

In my last year's report mention was made of an outbreak of *Salmonella typhi-murium* affecting a village the cause of which could not be determined. This year further cases occurred which were an obvious continuation of the trouble and five cases occurred at the same time in the adjoining districts of South Cambridgeshire. I am sure all these cases were connected though it was impossible to prove this fact. A full report was submitted to the Ministry of Health under covering letter dated 28th February, 1958.

In five of the sixteen cases notified this year no cause of the illness was determined. One case of food poisoning, probably due to *Clostridium welchii* toxin, was associated with the inefficient cooking of a turkey. Of the remaining ten cases, all due to *Salmonella typhi-murium*, five were sporadic cases and five associated with the village outbreak already mentioned.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (Infectious Disease) REGULATIONS, 1953.

Under these Regulations a special provision is made to facilitate the investigation and control of outbreaks of 'Food Poisoning' (which includes typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever, or other salmonella infection, dysentery and staphylococcal infection likely to cause food poisoning) in that (a) the existing provisions regarding the prevention of a person suffering from a food poisoning infection from continuing in or entering into an occupation connected with the preparation and handling of food or drink are now extended to include 'carriers' of food poisoning infections, (b) local authorities may authorise their medical officer of health to issue on their behalf notices where required to effect (a) immediately if he thinks it necessary and then report such action to his Authority as soon as possible.

Such authority has been given to the medical officer of health but has not so far had occasion to be used.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS 1958

Age in Years	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis		Measles	Diphtheria	Dysentery	Totals
			Paralytic	Non Paralytic				
Under 1 year	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	3
1—	1	—	—	—	3	—	2	6
2—	2	3	—	—	2	—	3	10
3—	4	1	—	—	8	—	5	18
4—	7	1	—	—	4	—	1	13
5—9	33	8	—	—	25	—	24	90
10—14	5	1	—	—	14	—	11	31
15—25	2	—	—	—	2	—	7	11
25 and over	—	1	—	—	—	—	69	70
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	55	15	—	—	58	—	124	252
1957 Totals	14	96	9	1	516	—	26	662

Age in Years	Acute Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Totals
Under 5	2	—	5	—	—	7
5—14	3	—	3	—	—	6
15—44	3	—	4	1	—	8
45—64	5	1	3	—	—	9
65 and over	10	—	1	—	—	11
Totals	23	1	16	1	—	41
1957 Totals	16	4	22	2	—	44

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH Annual case incidence and deaths 1948—1958												
DISEASE	YEARS											
	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	TOTAL	1958
<i>Measles</i>												
Cases	225	493	76	723	59	478	15	509	232	516	3,426	58
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Whooping cough</i>												
Cases	80	84	81	171	131	115	175	173	81	96	1,187	15
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

Twenty respiratory cases were notified for the first time during the year and two non-respiratory. Thirty-five respiratory and one non-respiratory cases, previously notified in other areas, were transferred to the district. On balance at the end of the year the number of persons on the respiratory register decreased by ninety-five and the number of persons on the non-respiratory register decreased by twenty-one.

During the year the Chest Physician, in conjunction with the Medical Superintendent of Papworth, undertook a review of cases resident in Papworth Settlement but whose names appeared on the register. This critical examination of this part of the register was long needed and largely accounts for the fall in numbers remaining on the register at the end of the year.

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER 1958

	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non Respiratory</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1. Number of cases on register at commencement of year	204	135	27	25	231	160
2. Number of cases notified for first time during the year under regulations	13	7	1	1	14	8
3. Cases restored to register	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Cases added to register otherwise than by notification under regulations						
(a) Transferred from other Districts	21	15	—	1	21	16
(b) From Death Returns	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Number of cases removed from register	95	56	15	9	110	65
6. Number of cases remaining on register at end of year	143	101	13	18	156	119

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION RESPIRATORY AND NON-RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS CASES ON REGISTER 31.12.58

AGE GROUP	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL		GRAND TOTAL
	<i>Resp.</i>	<i>Non Resp.</i>	<i>Resp.</i>	<i>Non Resp.</i>	<i>Resp.</i>	<i>Non Resp.</i>	
0—15	6	6	2	3	8	9	17
15—25	11	4	11	3	22	7	29
25—35	20	—	39	4	59	4	63
35—45	42	—	25	4	67	4	71
45—55	38	1	17	2	55	3	58
55—65	14	2	5	2	19	4	23
65 and over	12	—	2	—	14	—	14
TOTALS	143	13	101	18	244	31	275

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47

No action was necessary during the year under this section.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 50

No burials were effected during the year under the provisios of this section.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

The following is a summary of inspections carried out during 1958:—

TOTAL INSPECTIONS RECORDED	6,270
------------------------------------	-------

General Sanitation

Miscellaneous visits re complaints, etc.	376
Visits re drainage or sewerage	1,193
Water supplies	338
Water samples taken	277
Factories Acts	126
Visits re verminous persons or property.. .. .	9
Public cleansing visits	214
Shops Acts, etc.	337
Schools	15
Clean Air Act	8

Inspection of Food and Food Premises

Visits re sampling (milk and other foods)	137
Visits to slaughterhouses	1,238
Butchers shops	49
Preserved food premises:—	
(1) Sausage manufacturers	49
(2) Fried fish shops	17
Ice cream premises (retailers)	25
Cafes and restaurants	111
Other food premises	354
Bakehouses	33
Retail dairies	17
Licensed premises (public houses, etc.)	152

Housing

Housing inspections (P.H.A. 1936)	95
Reinspections	40
Housing inspections (Housing Acts)	226
Reinspections	307
Moveable dwellings	240

Infectious Diseases

Visits and enquiries	625
Disinfections	8

HOUSING

1. Total number of houses erected by the Council between 1920 and 1939 1,320

2. Post war housing progress:—

		<i>Permanent</i>	<i>Non-Traditional</i>	<i>Prefabs</i>	<i>Total</i>
Dwellings completed in	1946	18	—	5	23
"	"	52	16	45	113
"	"	77	10	—	87
"	"	21	70	—	91
"	"	115	—	—	115
"	"	133	—	—	133
"	"	106	—	—	106
"	"	184	—	—	184
"	"	229	70	—	299
"	"	121	28	—	149
"	"	90	—	—	90
"	"	102	—	—	102
"	"	69	—	—	69
		<hr/> 1,317	<hr/> 194	<hr/> 50	<hr/> 1,561

These figures are exclusive of conversions into flats and conversion of hutments.

Total number of dwellings completed up to 31.3.59:—

Prefabricated Bungalows	..	50
Bungalows	.. ..	229
Flats	.. ..	33
Non-Traditional Houses	..	174
Hut Conversions	.. ..	225
Permanent Houses	.. ..	1,075
Total		<hr/> 1,786

Dwellings in course of erection or contracts prepared:—

Permanent Houses	.. ..	62
Bungalows	.. ..	62
Flats	.. ..	16
Total		<hr/> 140

3. Private Development

Number of houses built by private enterprise during 1958:—

Permanent Houses	.. ..	240
Conversions (Units)	.. ..	7
Total		<hr/> 247

4. Slum Clearance

During 1958 the department undertook a comprehensive review of the housing needs of the area with particular reference to slum clearance and the future building programme. At the 30th September, 1958, the position was very briefly as follows:—

Total houses scheduled	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	774
Action already taken	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	316
Remaining	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	458

From the 458 scheduled properties it was estimated that only 252 families would require re-housing and for which a subsidy would be attracted. At that date the Council already had a slum clearance building programme of 259 dwellings of which 81 had been completed and 178 were in contract or approved. It was felt, therefore, that the needs of the present 5 year programme were being met, especially having regard to the fact that casual vacancies in existing Council houses amounted to approximately 150 per annum.

An opportunity was taken to examine the Council's housing list in some detail and the following figures were revealed:—

Total applicants at 30th September, 1958	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	799
Neither working or living in area	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	110
Already included in slum clearance proposals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	74

Of the remainder, 188 had no separate accommodation, 114 had notice to quit or were in tied cottages under notice, 31 were overcrowded and 15 had agreed medical reasons. The remaining 267 applicants had little or no qualification for inclusion in the list.

One problem remains, i.e. to build new houses in the areas where the unfit properties exist. The Council's policy has been to group their new houses in relatively large sites in order to provide the necessary services economically but in practice it is proving difficult to persuade tenants of unfit properties to transfer to another village, often some distance away. Since such tenants are predominantly single elderly persons or elderly couples this attitude is understandable and is sympathetically dealt with. Greater progress will be possible when the new housing site is developed at Cottenham, and there is still need for new houses in the Shelford area.

A summary of action taken during the year was as follows:—

Houses inspected	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	321
Reinspections made	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	347
Demolition orders made	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
Houses demolished	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	46
Undertakings accepted	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Undertakings cancelled	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Houses made fit	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	80
Closing orders made	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12

Since the passing of the Housing Act, 1930, the following total action has been taken:—

Houses demolished	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	568
Demolition orders not yet complied with	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	97
Houses demolished voluntarily	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	47
Houses subject to undertakings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	85
Houses or parts closed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Houses made fit by formal action	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Houses made fit by informal action	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,129

(Note—these figures are up to 31/12/58).

5. Temporary Hutments

The Council originally accepted responsibility for 284 hutments of various types, mainly occupied by 'squatters'. 185 were converted on a 5 year basis and 63 on a 10 year basis—36 remained unconverted.

At the 31st March, 1959, all but 3 huts had been vacated and demolished. The remaining tenants will be rehoused shortly. Although serving a useful purpose at the time of acute housing shortage their abandonment as a means of habitation is viewed with relief and satisfaction.

6. Requisitioning

Of the 56 properties originally requisitioned none now remain in the Council's possession. The last one was derequisitioned early in 1959.

7. Improvement Grants

The Council has operated this scheme since its inception apart from two periods when applications were suspended owing to the large numbers in hand. A summary of action taken since the introduction of the Act (up to 31st March, 1959) is as follows:—

Total applications for grants received	..	..	..	..	..	..	308
Total applications approved	..	..	..	..	..	..	300
Total applications disapproved	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Total number of dwellings involved	..	..	..	..	..	..	409
Total cost of approved work (not withdrawn)	..	..	..	..	..	£197,121	19 1
Average total cost per dwelling	..	..	..	..	..	£481	19 3
Total amount of grant involved	..	..	..	..	..	£95,668	14 7
Average amount of grant per dwelling	..	..	..	..	..	£233	18 2
Total payments made up to 31.3.59	..	..	..	..	..	£80,659	9 5

Approved schemes provided for the following:—

1. Remedying fundamental defects in the structure of the dwelling	..	..	..	..	..	..	77
2. Fitting larger windows to improve light and ventilation	..	..	..	..	..	..	120
3. Laying on internal water supply	..	..	..	..	..	..	97
4. Installation of hot water system	..	..	..	..	..	..	391
5. Provision of water closet	..	..	..	..	..	..	350
6. Provision of bath	..	..	..	..	..	..	362
7. Provision of sink	..	..	..	..	..	..	197
8. Provision of new or improved drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	359
9. Provision of gas or electric points	..	..	..	..	..	..	341
10. Installation of new heating appliances	..	..	..	..	..	..	293
11. Provision of new or improved food stores	..	..	..	..	..	..	174
12. Provision of solid fuel cooking appliances	..	..	..	..	..	..	120
13. Provision of fuel stores	..	..	..	..	..	..	80
14. Additional accommodation:							
(a) living room(s)	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
(b) bedroom(s)	..	..	..	..	..	..	32

It is interesting to note that the dwellings included in approved schemes were owned as follows:—

(a) Owner/occupiers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	189
(b) Small property owners	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	88
(c) Large individual property owners (exceeding 10)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
(d) Estates, Property Companies, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	112

8. Rent Act, 1957

During the year only 5 applications were received from tenants for certificates of disrepair and in all cases the owners undertook to carry out the necessary works, without the necessity for certificates to be issued.

Certainly in a rural area of this kind the procedure has had very little obvious effect on the housing problem or the landlord/tenant relationship. Probably the overall effect has been to discourage landlords from claiming the increased rents permitted for fear of receiving a certificate of disrepair.

9. Old People's Bungalows

The Council has provided an old people's unit of 18 bungalows at Histon (with a resident Warden) —mentioned in the 1956 Report. A further 6 bungalows have been completed at Oakington and a further site for 8 bungalows is projected at Lolworth.

There is ample evidence to show the necessity for the continued provision of small dwellings for single elderly persons or elderly couples which constitute a high proportion of the tenants of unfit properties. It should be remembered that over 90% of the Council's dwellings are three bedroomed houses and the inclusion of a greater variety of accommodation (as is now being done) affords much more latitude in the selection of accommodation to suit the needs of the applicant. It also enables the problem of under occupation of the three bedroomed houses to be tackled effectively.

10. The Remaining Need

The Council has built a total of 2,881 dwellings out of a total of 13,268 houses in the area and a further 140 dwellings are in course of erection or at the contract stage. Furthermore, the casual vacancy rate occurring in the Council's houses is increasing and approaches 200 per annum. It would seem therefore, that with some 250 families to be rehoused the slum clearance programme can now be met without further house building (Cottenham apart).

The analysis of the Council's housing list referred to earlier indicates that this could be substantially reduced if a more realistic assessment was undertaken and at present tends to create a false impression of the true needs of the area.

Another significant factor is the amount of projected private development due to take place in the area in the immediate future. Layouts are to hand showing some 300 private dwellings of the small type to be erected almost immediately. The effect on the general needs of the area may not be insignificant.

11. Moveable Dwellings and Camping Sites

The following figures indicate the position at 31st Decmeber, 1958:—

Number of licences for single caravans issued during the year	..	..	..	36
Number refused	..	..	..	1
Number of new site licences issued during year	..	..	..	7
Vehicles involved	..	..	..	51
Number of site licences refused	..	..	..	1
Total number of individual licences in force at 31.12.58	..	..	..	124
Total number of site licences in force at 31.12.58	..	..	..	37
Total number of vehicles involved	..	..	..	310
Inspections made during year	..	..	..	240

There appears to be a growing appreciation that residential caravanning has come to stay especially in an area of this kind bordering on a University City with a fairly large floating population. The increased demand for residential sites mentioned in the last Report has tailed off although the available sites are still barely able to meet the requirements. During the year 7 new sites were licensed making accommodation available eventually for a further 51 caravans. Close liaison with the County Planning Department ensures that the requirements of both authorities are met. The appointment of Sir Arton Wilson, C.B.E., to investigate the problems associated with residential caravanning and to report to the Minister is a hopeful sign that legislation will shortly be strengthened and thereby facilitate the work of local authorities in striving to ensure adequate standards of hygiene and fitness.

The sites in the area have been well maintained generally and site operators co-operate with the department very well. Additional facilities have been secured at several and no serious problem has arisen at any site. If one could eliminate sub-letting and increase the available sites the majority of the difficulties arising from this form of accommodation would disappear.

TABLE 1
POST WAR HOUSING
PARISH ALLOCATION

(Houses allocated and completed since the war including those under contract or commenced at 31.3.59).

Parish	Permanent Construction				Temp. Accom.	
	Allocated		Completed		Allocated	Completed
	Houses	Bungalows and Flats	Houses	Bungalows and Flats	Huts and Prefabs etc.	Huts and Prefabs etc.
Barton	6	—	6	—	—	—
Bourn	54	12	54	12	110	110
Boxworth	4	—	4	—	—	—
Caxton	19	10	19	10	—	—
Comberton	34	28	4	—	—	—
Conington	8	—	8	—	—	—
Coton	50	3	50	3	—	—
Cottenham	76	8	76	8	22	22
Croxton	8	—	8	—	—	—
Dry Drayton	8	—	8	—	—	—
Elsworth	12	—	12	—	—	—
Eltisley	9	—	9	—	—	—
Fen Ditton	24	2	24	2	—	—
Fen Drayton	20	4	20	4	—	—
Fulbourn	70	18	60	18	10	10
Girton	85	20	81	20	—	—
Grantchester	8	—	8	—	—	—
Graveley	14	6	14	6	14	14
Harlton	7	—	7	—	—	—
Harston	58	10	58	10	—	—
Haslingfield	38	15	38	15	—	—
Histon	102	22	102	22	—	—
Horningsea	16	4	16	4	—	—
Impington	36	2	36	2	10	10
Knapwell	6	—	6	—	—	—
Landbeach	14	2	14	2	—	—
Lolworth	8	—	8	—	—	—
Longstanton	26	9	26	9	26	26
Madingley	8	—	8	—	—	—
Milton	28	—	28	—	—	—
Newton	4	—	4	—	—	—
Oakington	24	19	24	19	10	10
Over	22	5	22	5	—	—
Rampton	11	—	11	—	—	—
Great Shelford	144	42	144	42	10	10
Little Shelford	18	—	18	—	—	—
Stapleford	10	—	10	—	—	—
Stow-cum-Quy	28	6	28	—	52	52
Swavesey	26	6	26	6	—	—
Teversham	36	26	12	—	—	—
Toft	12	—	12	—	—	—
Waterbeach	53	40	47	16	11	11
Great Wilbraham	8	—	8	—	—	—
Little Wilbraham	18	6	18	6	—	—
Willingham	41	15	41	15	—	—
Totals	1,311	340	1,249	262	275	275

WATER SUPPLY

Since the last report the hamlet of Chittering has been supplied by means of an extension of the mains from Landbeach.

The scheme for supplying approximately 50 houses on the Fen Drayton Land Settlement estate has also been completed. This substituted a mains supply from Fenstanton for the unsatisfactory estate supply drawn from unprotected shallow wells. This latter supply is retained for horticultural use only.

Apart from a few very isolated properties a mains supply is now available throughout the area.

Regrouping of Water Undertakings

Apart from one bulk supply Board, there are only two statutory authorities in this area, i.e. the Cambridge University and Town Waterworks Company and the Council. Water is, however, supplied from several sources including the Chesterton and St. Ives Joint Water Board, and the problem of regrouping envisaged by Circular 52/56 is by no means a simple one. A number of meetings have been held between interested bodies and in March 1958 proposals were submitted to the Minister for the formation of a new Joint Water Board to be established for the supply to, and the distribution within the local authority areas of:—

Chesterton Rural District Council (excluding 14 parishes within the Cambridge Water Company's area)

South Cambridgeshire Rural District Council

Saint Ives Rural District Council

Saint Ives Borough Council

Ramsey Urban District Council

The scheme is still under consideration by the Minister.

Sufficiency of Supply

Owing to the relatively high rainfall during the Summer months no serious difficulty was encountered in meeting the demands on the various sources of supply. The output of the Council's two small works at Over and Willingham which often are taxed to capacity proved sufficient and no significant interruption of supply occurred.

Chlorination and Softening

All public supplies are chlorinated with the exception of the Council's small works at Harston supplying approximately 1,000 population.

As will be seen from Table No. 3 the Cambridge University and Town Waterworks Company's supply is softened before distribution and the Council's Harston supply is naturally very soft. The remaining supplies are very hard varying between 450 and 550 parts per million. With supplies drawn from several widely separated sources softening is an expensive process and no progress has been made in this direction so far. With regrouping of undertakings under consideration it is unlikely that the heavy capital programme necessary will be put in hand in the immediate future.

Willingham Waterworks

Since the acquisition of these works by the Council in 1955 they have been under the normal supervision of the Engineer's Department and the water has proved satisfactory bacteriologically as a result of chlorination. The metering of non-domestic supplies has been proceeding and the only remaining problem is the age and inadequate size of the distribution mains.

Sampling

All public supplies are sampled regularly for bacteriological examination by the Public Health Laboratories and full chemical and bacteriological reports are made quarterly by the Public Analyst. The results are shown in Table

TABLE No. 2
WATER SAMPLING YEAR ENDING 31.12.58

Parish	Public Supplies				Private Supplies			
	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory		Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
	Chemical	Bac.	Chemical	Bac.	Chemical	Bac.	Chemical	Bac.
Barton	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bourn	2	6	—	—	—	1	—	1
Caxton	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Comberton	—	5	—	4	—	—	—	—
Coton	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cottenham	4	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Croxton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Dry Drayton	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Elsworth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Eltisley	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fen Ditton	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fen Drayton	1	12	1	—	—	15	3	1
Fulbourn	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Girton	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grantchester	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Graveley	3	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hardwick	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Harston	4	7	—	1	—	—	—	—
Impington	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Landbeach	—	11	—	5	—	—	—	—
Lolworth	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Longstanton	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Over	4	21	—	2	—	—	—	—
Papworth St. Agnes	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rampton	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shelford, Great	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stapleford	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Stow-cum-Quy	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	4
Swavesey	3	21	—	—	—	—	—	—
Waterbeach	2	33	—	9	—	—	—	3
Wilbraham, Great	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wilbraham, Little	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Willingham	4	18	—	2	—	1	—	2
Totals	29	182	1	24	—	20	3	18

The unsatisfactory samples from public supplies were mostly due to minor contamination of taps and service pipes. Some difficulty was also experienced in securing effective chlorination of the new water main to Chittering and 14 of the unsatisfactory samples were taken during this period.

The 18 unsatisfactory samples from private sources were well scattered throughout the district. Improvement in existing supplies or suitable alternatives were effected in these cases.

Typical results of analyses from the five sources of public supply are set out in the following table.

TABLE NO. 3.

TYPICAL RESULTS OF ANALYSES OF PUBLIC SUPPLIES

Test	Cambridge Water Co.	Willingham Waterworks	Joint Water Board	Harston Waterworks	Over Waterworks
Physical Characters	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Reaction (pH value)	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.9	6.9
Parts per 100,000					
Chlorine	2.0	3.85	8.0	2.10	6.50
Ammonia (free and saline)	0.0010	0.0006	0.0128	0.0362	0.0030
Ammonia (albuminoid)	0.0006	0.0076	0.0042	0.0006	0.0258
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours at 37°C.	0.0445	0.0481	0.0378	0.0227	0.1807
Nitrites	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Nitrates	0.70	1.55	absent	absent	0.05
Poisonous Metals	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Bacteriological Examination					
Coliform organisms in 100 mls.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
No. of micro-organisms per ml. developing at 37°C.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
No. of micro-organisms per ml. developing at 21°C.	Nil	4	Nil	Nil	Nil
Maximum hardness during year (parts per 100,000)	14.6	45.0	47.2	19.0	50.5
Minimum hardness during year (parts per 100,000)	9.6	41.7	30.0	5.4	46.9

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE DEPARTMENT YEAR ENDING 31.12.58

Total number of visits made re water supplies	..	..	..	..	..	..	338
Total samples taken	..	..	..	..	..	..	277
Samples reported fit:—							
(a) Public Supplies	..	..	..	..	..	..	211
(b) Private Supplies	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Samples reported unfit:—							
(a) Public Supplies	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
(b) Private Supplies	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Water Supplies improved as a result of action by the Department	..	..	..	..	..	..	57

TABLE NO. 4

PIPED WATER SUPPLIES AT 31.3.59

PARISH	Population 1951 Census	Statutory Authority	No. of Dwellings (Rate Books) 31.3.58	No. of Dwellings taking Supply (Rated)	% of Dwellings at 31.3.58
Barton	528	C.R.D.C.	193	145	75.1
Bourn	1,053	C.R.D.C.	287	264	92.0
Boxworth	196	C.R.D.C.	76	75	98.7
Caldecote	396	C.R.D.C.	136	129	94.1
Caxton	375	C.R.D.C.	127	124	97.1
Childerley	22	C.R.D.C.	7	6	85.7
Comberton	597	C.R.D.C.	219	193	88.1
Conington	132	C.R.D.C.	46	46	100.0
Coton	519	C.W.W.	183	166	90.7
Cottenham	2,440	C.R.D.C.	919	902	98.1
Croxton	170	C.R.D.C.	66	59	89.4
Dry Drayton	405	C.R.D.C.	125	116	92.8
Elsworth	515	C.R.D.C.	160	159	99.3
Eltisley	276	C.R.D.C.	98	95	96.9
Fen Ditton	632	C.W.W.	216	188	87.0
Fen Drayton	483	C.R.D.C.	152	145	95.3
Fulbourn	2,413	C.W.W.	598	582	97.3
Girton	1,931	C.W.W.	842	842	100.0
Grantchester	493	C.W.W.	170	166	97.6
Graveley	218	C.R.D.C.	62	57	92.4
Hardwick	471	C.R.D.C.	166	155	93.3
Harlton	236	C.R.D.C.	85	72	84.6
Harston	938	C.R.D.C.	368	361	98.1
Haslingford	1,142	C.R.D.C.	269	233	86.6
Hauxton	381	C.R.D.C.	148	145	97.9
Histon	2,555	C.W.W.	1,069	1,060	99.1
Horningsea	325	C.R.D.C.	124	112	90.3
Impington	1,301	C.W.W.	441	438	99.3
Knapwell	109	C.R.D.C.	37	32	86.5
Landbeach	610	C.R.D.C.	210	170	80.9
Lolworth	86	C.R.D.C.	43	31	72.1
Longstanton	1,481	C.R.D.C.	193	188	97.3
Madingley	182	C.W.W.	70	65	92.8
Milton	738	C.W.W.	258	224	86.8
Newton	279	C.R.D.C.	104	84	80.7
Oakington	500	C.R.D.C.	215	207	96.2
Over	906	C.R.D.C.	345	312	90.4
Papworth Everard	1,205	C.R.D.C.	276	276	100.0
Papworth St. Agnes	88	C.R.D.C.	32	31	96.8
Rampton	221	C.R.D.C.	92	88	95.6
Shelford, Great	2,318	C.W.W.	1,126	1,104	98.0
Shelford, Little	658	C.W.W.	221	194	87.7
Stapleford	831	C.W.W.	441	392	88.8
Stow-cum-Quy	527	C.R.D.C.	164	147	89.6
Swavesey	927	C.R.D.C.	318	305	95.5
Teversham	571	C.W.W.	194	175	90.2
Toft	250	C.R.D.C.	90	85	94.4
Waterbeach	2,630	C.R.D.C.	545	452	82.9
Westwick	61	C.R.D.C.	14	14	100.0
Wilbraham, Great	435	C.W.W.	146	131	89.7
Wilbraham, Little	266	C.R.D.C.	135	125	92.5
Willingham	1,623	C.R.D.C.	647	631	97.5
Totals	38,645		13,268	12,498	94.1

C.R.D.C. Chesterton Rural District Council.

C.W.W. Cambridge University and Town Waterworks Company.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection

Public cleansing remains the responsibility of the department and during 1958 the following schedules were in operation:—

Weekly	Houses	Fortnightly	Houses
Girton	842	Cottenham	919
Harston	368	Fen Ditton	216
Hauxton	148	Landbeach	210
Histon	1,069	Milton	258
Impington	441	Newton	104
Great Shelford	1,126	Waterbeach	545
Little Shelford	221		
Stapleford	441		
Total (34.9%)	4,636	Total (16.9%)	2,252

Monthly	Houses	Monthly	Houses	Monthly	Houses
Barton	193	Fen Drayton	152	Over	345
Bourn	287	Fulbourn	598	Papworth Everard	276
Boxworth	76	Grantchester	170	Papworth St. Agnes	32
Caldecote	136	Graveley	62	Rampton	92
Caxton	127	Hardwick	166	Stow-cum-Quy	164
Childerley	7	Harlton	85	Swavesey	318
Comberton	219	Haslingfield	269	Teversham	194
Conington	46	Horningsea	124	Toft	90
Coton	183	Knapwell	37	Westwick	14
Croxton	66	Lolworth	43	Great Wilbraham	146
Dry Drayton	125	Longstanton	193	Little Wilbraham	135
Elsworth	160	Madingley	70	Willingham	647
Eltisley	98	Oakington	215		
Total 6,380 houses (48.2%)					

It will be noted that approximately 35% of the houses in the area receive a weekly collection, 17% a fortnightly one and the remaining 48% a monthly collection. As from the 1st April, 1959, it is intended to increase the frequency of these monthly collections to fortnightly. This scheme was deferred in 1958 as an economy measure and its implementation will be welcomed by all concerned. The task of refuse collection is by no means a simple one in an area of this kind which covers 174 square miles and varies in character from the urban development immediately adjoining the City to the isolated fen hamlet. Of necessity therefore the service is a costly one due to the long haulage involved and would be even more costly were it not for the co-operation of householders in accepting a kerbside collection. The rapid development taking place in the parishes adjoining Cambridge and the very light nature of the refuse creates a problem in the selection of suitable vehicles for the work.

The present schedules are carried out by four diesel engined vehicles of 16/18 cu. yd. capacity, one petrol engined 12 cu. yd. side loading vehicle and one petrol engined 12/15 cu. yd. moving floor vehicle.

In order to introduce the fortnightly collection scheme it will not be necessary to acquire additional vehicles but the replacement of the smaller ones for those with greater capacity will become essential.

The rate equivalent for 1958/9 (collection and disposal) is 10.3 pence which is not unreasonable having regard to the difficulties outlined above.

Disposal

Controlled tipping is the sole method available and four tips (mainly shallow gravel workings) at strategic points are in use. The Northern half of the area is fairly well provided for but the position in the Southern half will become acute in approximately 2 years time when the Haslingfield Tip is filled. Serious thought will have to be given to disposal on a regional basis, possibly in conjunction with the City Authorities. The advantage of a large central tip where proper pre-separation of refuse and salvage recovery can be practiced economically would more than offset the additional cost of haulage.

During the summer months great difficulty was experienced in controlling fly infestation, particularly at Haslingfield, in spite of treatment with a large variety of insecticides. Gammexane, D.D.T. Malathion, dieldrin, etc., were all tried and whilst some measure of control could be effected over the adult fly none seems of any use in killing the larvae. Only two methods offer any real chance of success, i.e. really adequate covering of the refuse with top soil—the cost of which would be quite prohibitive in this area or total incineration under favourable site conditions. The education of the public to exclude putrescible matter from the dustbins would go a long way towards solving the problems of disposal.

Collection of Salvage

No improvement has been evident in the market for baled waste paper, and with no guaranteed outlet, it has not been thought worth while to reintroduce a separate collection. The amount of waste paper in the domestic refuse however, is a serious embarrassment. Vehicles of larger capacity have to be employed owing to the increased bulk of the refuse and the fire risk on the tips is always a hazard. A very real saving in the cost of collection could be made if householders could be persuaded to burn their waste paper and cartons.

Statistics

Briefly the cost statements for the 12 months ending 31st March, 1959 reveal the following:—

Total mileage travelled	.. .. .	53,088 miles
Cost per mile (excluding loan charges)	.. .. .	12.47 pence
Estimated tons of refuse removed and disposed of	.. .. .	8,660 tons
Estimated cost per ton (collection and disposal)	.. .. .	£1 8 11
Estimated net cost per ton (after deduction of income)	.. .. .	£1 8 2½
Estimated number of clearances	.. .. .	371,548 clearances
Average cost per clearance	.. .. .	7.9 pence
Estimated average miles per ton	.. .. .	6.2 miles
Estimated miles per gallon (petrol)	.. .. .	8.1 m.p.g.
Estimated miles per gallon (diesel)	.. .. .	11.5 m.p.g.
Net annual cost per 1,000 dwellings	.. .. .	£921 8 9
Net annual cost per 1,000 population	.. .. .	£287 19 11

Cesspool Emptying

The Council operates a scheme for the casual emptying of cesspools in the area (excluding those parishes where public sewers are available). One 700 gallon Karrier Yorkshire vehicle is employed full time on this work and a second vehicle is mainly engaged on work for the Council's other departments (i.e. desludging small sewage disposal plants and emptying village drains and catchpits, etc.) Both vehicles are adapted for the collection of night soil which is undertaken in one parish.

A minimum charge of 35/- is made for cesspool emptying plus 15/- for each additional load.

A summary of the work carried out during the year ending 31st March, 1959, is as follows:—

Actual mileage travelled	.. .. .	19,063 miles
Estimated cost per mile	.. .. .	1s. 2d. per mile
Number of clearances made	.. .. .	1,320 clearances
Estimated cost per clearance	.. .. .	£1 18 10
Estimated number of loads disposed of	.. .. .	2,034 loads
Estimated cost per load	.. .. .	£1 5 8

Disposal is affected mainly by the use of public sewers and sewage disposal works with the occasional use of agricultural land where no risk of nuisance or danger to health can arise.

Night Soil Collection

A private firm in the area undertakes a bucket clearance service at a nominal charge of approximately 1/3d which is widely used. In addition the Council operates a weekly collection in the following parishes:—

Waterbeach (approximately 300 pails) by direct labour
Grantchester (approximately 40 pails) by private contract.

The work carried out by the Council in the parish of Waterbeach during the year ending 31st March, 1959, was as follows:—

Total bucket clearances	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17,940 clearances
Estimated cost per clearance	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4.8 pence

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are two municipally owned open air public baths in Cambridge where the water is properly chlorinated but unfortunately the only covered bath is a private one attached to a public school. Consequently a great deal of bathing occurs in the River Cam both above and below Cambridge. The condition of the river particularly below the City is often unsatisfactory. The Great Ouse River Board is responsible for pollution prevention in the area.

A small open air 'fill and empty' pool, the first of its kind in the area is under construction by the Parent/Teachers Association at Girton Glebe School and will come under the supervision of the department.

SHOPS ACTS

The following summary shows the action taken by the department during the year:—

Total number of shops on register (31.12.58)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	282
Inspections recorded	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	362*
(* including visits for other purposes)								

Most shops are visited in connection with other duties—food hygiene, meat inspection, etc., and opportunity is taken to check for compliance with those provisions of the Shops Act administered by the Council. Few premises employ large staffs and already have adequate sanitary arrangements as a result of earlier efforts by the department. The Council is not responsible for the enforcement of sections dealing with hours of closing, etc.

VERMINOUS PERSONS OR PREMISES

Little action has been necessary during the year. The following is a summary:—

Visits made	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Premises fumigated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

In one case, where an old man died in a wooden shack it was necessary to destroy the premises (already under an operative demolition order). The building was first treated for rats and 150 were recovered. The structure was then burnt.

Facilities are made available by courtesy of the United Cambridge Hospitals for the cleansing of verminous persons and bedding where necessary and the department utilises the services of the Pests Officer and cleansing staff to deal with dirty premises vacated by old people.

DRAINAGE AND CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

The department is responsible for the supervision of all new drainage to existing buildings including connection to the public sewers (apart from work in the Highway). This work is carried out in close co-operation with the Engineer and Surveyor's department and occupies a considerable proportion of the Inspectors' time, particularly where new public sewers come into use.

The Council offers every inducement to householders to connect their properties to the sewers. A scheme is available whereby the cost of this work can be spread over several years and joint connections are permitted (as many as 6 or 8 houses are often included by agreement on one connection). In consequence the response has been excellent as the following figures show:—

Total Number of Houses Connected to Public Sewers at 31.3.59

Parish	Council Houses	Private Houses
Fulbourn (598 houses)	94	273
Girton (842 houses)	146	571
Histon (1,069 houses)	182	643
Impington (441 houses)	26	196
Milton (258 houses)	57	103
Shelford, Great (part only)	275	617
Teversham (part only)	12	4
Totals	792	2,407

During the year, work continued on the sewerage of the remainder of Great Shelford. It is not anticipated however that the sewers will be available until July, 1959.

Approval has now been received to the scheme for sewerage of the parishes of Little Shelford and Stapleford and tenders have been invited. This latter section of the Council's comprehensive scheme is urgently required owing to the rapid development in these two parishes recently.

The scheme for sewerage of the parish of Cottenham (approximate population 2,500) has received approval and will go to tender in early 1959. The implementation of this scheme is urgently necessary not only on general public health grounds but to enable other projects such as the new village college and the proposed housing site to be proceeded with.

The scheme prepared by the University of Cambridge, as owners of the village, for sewerage of Madingley in conjunction with the Council has made good progress during the year. The sewers are substantially completed and work is in hand on the disposal plant. This is intended to form part of an improvement grant scheme for some 20 cottages and will also enable the Council to carry out urgent improvements to the drainage of their small housing site. The Council has agreed to take over the sewers and treatment plant when completed.

Progress continues to be made with the connection of the Council's houses to the sewers and the following were done during the year:—

Fulbourn	12 houses
Girton	40 houses
Impington	32 houses connected and 26 in contract
Landbeach	8 houses
Longstanton	14 houses
Willingham	10 houses

The following schemes remain outstanding:—

Fulbourn	80 houses (scheme for 48 in hand)
Histon and Impington	14 houses
Longstanton	4 houses

Schemes are in preparation for the provision of sewers for housing estates at Dry Drayton, Fen Drayton and Hardwick and new sites under development will provide for existing Council houses in Comberton, Teversham and Waterbeach.

Generally speaking the rate of progress in the provision of modern drainage facilities for the more densely populated parts of the area is not unsatisfactory. More disturbing however, is the problem arising from the speculative building of small dwellings on land upon which it is difficult or impossible to install satisfactory domestic drainage. Much of the available good land has already been utilised and builders, of necessity, are turning to the more unsatisfactory sites which are the only ones remaining. These are often quite unsuitable for individual septic tanks owing to the heavy nature of the subsoil and/or a high subsoil water level. In such cases cesspools are resorted to, which unfortunately satisfy the Building Byelaws but do not constitute an acceptable method of drainage unless coupled with a very frequent mechanical emptying at considerable expense to the purchasers. The plots are mostly far too small to avoid nuisance and surreptitious overflows soon appear in the local ditches. Discussions have taken place with the Planning Authority on this matter in the hope that some improvement can be effected.

Difficulties also arise from time to time on new private estates with regard to the disposal of surface water. Sufficient attention is not always given to this aspect of drainage and there seems to be some doubt as to the responsibility of the various authorities in securing such provision. Quite serious consequences can arise if this is neglected and one estate in the area was subject to flooding during the wet summer. A joint scheme is in hand to provide improved surface water drainage—part of the cost being subscribed by the Council—the remainder by the residents and the Highway Authority.

RODENT DESTRUCTION

The pests destruction service is now an accepted and established part of the Council's public health function and is used to the fullest extent by the public. A full time Pests Officer and one operator continue to be employed in order to discharge the Council's duties under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, and a free service is given to all domestic properties. Work on business and other premises is carried out on a contract or recovery basis. A service is also provided where necessary for the destruction of other pests such as wasps, hornets, bats, moles and cockroaches, etc.

The rat destruction service provided by the Cambridgeshire Agricultural Committee terminated during the year and work on agricultural properties is now done mainly by private servicing companies unless the farmers elect to do the work themselves.

In the past, a grant from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has been available to the Council of 50% of the net annual cost of the service excluding work done on business premises. When it became known that this direct grant would cease on 1st April, 1959, the Council gave very careful consideration to the future of the service which costs approximately £1,800 per annum. It was felt that any attempt to recover small amounts from householders would present administrative difficulties and might discourage the reporting of rats. It was therefore decided to continue the present service for the time being, having regard to its value to the community and its contribution to good environmental hygiene.

The main treatment used for rat destruction is still poisoning with Warfarin plus the occasional substitution of Zinc Phosphide or A.N.T.U. The availability of Warfarin to the general public has helped to keep down the rat population and no serious major infestations were recorded during the year. Very few wasps' nests were reported and the only serious problem which arose was the destruction of flies, particularly on one refuse tip (referred to under Public Cleansing).

Table No. 5 shows briefly a summary of the work carried out for the twelve months ending on 31.3.59:—

TABLE NO. 5

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority	Dwellings	Agricultural	Business & Industrial Premises etc.	Total
Approximate total number of properties in area	50	13,268	1,000	500	14,818
Properties inspected as a result of notification of infestation	—	250	—	3	253
Properties inspected without notification of infestation	27	6,057	95	325	6,504
Number of properties found to be infested with rats					
	<i>Major</i>	34	5	3	45
	<i>Minor</i>	1,297	13	20	1,339
Number of infested properties treated by the Council	12	1,331	5	23	1,371
Number of notices served under Section 4 (treatment)	—	—	—	—	—
Number of 'block control' schemes carried out	—	8	—	—	8

A summary of the results achieved during this period is as follows :—

Total number of rats recovered	.. .. .	4,983*
Total estimated killed	.. .. .	19,932
Number of wasps nests removed	.. .. .	7

Number of premises treated for :—

Mice	.. .. .	70
Beetles	.. .. .	4
Fleas	.. .. .	5
Moles	.. .. .	4
Bats	.. .. .	2
Ants	.. .. .	1

* With the use of the slower acting poisons the number of rats recovered is usually small in relation to the total kill.

FACTORIES

A summary of the work carried out by the department under the Factories Acts is appended below :—

Number of factories with mechanical power	.. .. .	128
Number of factories without mechanical power	.. .. .	21
Total on register at 31st December, 1958	.. .. .	149
Inspections recorded	.. .. .	126
Notifications of outworkers received	.. .. .	10
Infected premises	.. .. .	Nil
Notices served	.. .. .	13

As a result of action taken during the year the following defects were revealed and remedied :—

Want of cleanliness	3
Insufficient sanitary accommodation	7
Unsuitable or defective sanitary accommodation	6

Work in this field is very largely routine in character as most premises in the area are small and employ few staff. It seems unfortunate that insofar as factories with mechanical power are concerned the department's only function is to ensure satisfactory sanitary accommodation. All other health and safety matters are dealt with by H.M. Inspector of Factories. The Council's Surveyor is responsible for means of escape in case of fire (Sections 34-37 Factories Act, 1937).

Efforts have been made to make generally known the provisions of the Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956 and premises where a number of staff is employed—such as nurseries and other horticultural premises have been inspected. Wherever possible improved sanitary accommodation has been secured but once again the division of responsibility between local authorities and the Ministry's staff precludes any real enthusiasm for the task. The Act itself contains many loopholes.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Most rural authorities regard the provisions of the new Act as only applicable to industrial areas and progress is naturally somewhat tardy. The submission of applications for prior approval before the installation of new boiler plant is encouraged and 9 such applications were dealt with during the year. So far the Council has not agreed to incorporate the new model Byelaw (Section 24) which is to be regretted.

The Council has an arrangement with the National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service whereby advice can be obtained on any application for prior approval which presents unusual difficulty. One application has so far been submitted for an opinion before approval.

The majority of the industrial plants in the area have now been converted for oil burning. Action was necessary in one case due to 'soot blowing' to an unreasonable degree and attention has also been drawn to the unsatisfactory plant at one large hospital. In the latter case large capital works are involved in order to replace the overloaded plant. This work is programmed but not yet commenced.

SCHOOLS

Although not directly implicated in the Education Authority's school programme the department is naturally pleased to record the great progress which is being made, not only in the provision of new schools but the improvement or closure of existing unsatisfactory one's. A brief summary of recent and projected work is set out below :—

Bourn	Second instalment of new school completed and in use.
Comberton	New village college under construction.
Milton	New school in use—old one abandoned.
Oakington	Substantial improvements completed and in use.
Great Shelford	Additional accommodation completed and in use.
Stapleford	Additional accommodation completed and in use.
Swavesey	Village college completed and in use.
Haslingfield	Additions almost complete.
Histon	New heating and offices completed.
Fulbourn	New classrooms completed.
Longstanton	New classrooms completed.
Waterbeach	New classrooms completed.
Childerley Gate	Negotiations in hand for new school.
Cottenham	New village college due to commence in 1959/60.

The old school at Lolworth has been closed and that at Caxton is due for closure in 1959. Consideration is being given to the closure of some others at the present time.

The department's activities are confined to the visiting of school meals kitchens and the sampling of school milk supplies.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT. 1957

Premises registered at 31.12.58 1

Only one factory in the area is engaged on the manufacture of new upholstered furniture using the specified materials. No action was necessary during the year.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1957

Premises registered 31.12.58 1
Number of visits 1

The only licensed premises in the area consist of one establishment where pets of all kinds are kept pending sale from various local markets. The owner is also a breeder of various birds. No action was necessary during the year but the legislation requires strengthening regarding right of entry and exemption of breeding establishments.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

Milk Supply

Good progress continues to be made in the County from a production point of view. The area was declared a 'special area' in October, 1956, the effect of which was to prohibit the sale by retail of milk other than Tuberculin Tested or Pasteurised. As from 1st April, 1959, the whole County will become an 'eradication area' and by October, 1959, an 'attested area'. A few years ago such an achievement would have been considered unattainable.

The following figures (supplied by courtesy of the Agricultural Executive Committee) indicate the position in the area at 31st March, 1959 :—

Number of wholesale producers in the area 104
Number of producer retailers 33
Number of retail purveyors 21

Out of a total of 115 registered producers in the Council's area 86 produce Tuberculin Tested milk (74.8%) and approximately 80% of the herds are already attested.

The following is a summary of the year's work under the various Milk and Dairies Regulations :—

Number of distributors with premises in the area 17
Number of distributors with premises outside the area 4
Visits paid to retail dairies 17
Licences issued to retail Pasteurised milk 16
Licences issued to retail Tuberculin Tested milk 18
Licences issued to retail Sterilised milk 6

MILK SAMPLING 1957 TABLE No. 6

Category	Bacteriological Examination			Biological Examination			
	Samples Taken	No. Passing Test	No. Failing	No. of Samples Submitted	Free from Infection	Positive T.B.	Brucella Abortus
ROUTINE SAMPLING							
Tuberculin Tested	4	4	—	30	30	—	—
Pasteurised	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	4	4	—	30	30	—	—
SCHOOL MILKS							
Tuberculin Tested	3*	1	1	—	—	—	—
Pasteurised	44*	40	1	—	—	—	—
T.T. Pasteurised	5	5	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	52	46	2	—	—	—	—
TOTAL OF ALL SAMPLES	56	50	2	30	30	—	—

* Includes 8 samples (pasteurised) where atmosphere shade temperature over 65°F

The activities of the public health department have been confined to sampling milk in course of delivery to the consumer so as to detect any contamination or pathogenic organisms.

Milk supplies to all schools in the district are sampled regularly on behalf of the County Medical Officer of Health.

Broadly speaking, the public is now assured of a safe milk supply having regard to the progress mentioned earlier and the elimination of the sale of ungraded raw milk. 30 samples submitted for biological examination were all found to be free from infection and only 2 samples failed the prescribed tests for designated milks.

Almost without exception all school milk is pasteurised and delivery is confined to one or two larger distributors, thereby simplifying the task of sampling. The standard of pasteurisation was very well maintained.

A small outbreak of *Salmonella typhimurium* was investigated where milk seemed the only common factor. With the ready co-operation of the dairyman all employees submitted stool specimens which were found to be negative and no further action was necessary.

Having secured the safety of the commodity most of the remaining problems are associated with the processing and bottling. In these days of large scale mechanical washing and bottling plants, it seems inevitable that occasional stained bottles or foreign bodies in the milk escape the vigilance of the 'spotters' and a bad impression is created with the public. In many cases the public, by their misuse of the bottles, are themselves responsible and in order to stimulate interest posters were issued for display during the year, requesting prompt rinsing and return of milk bottles. The department maintains close contact with the dairies and, whilst sympathetic to the problems arising ensures that all such steps as are humanly possible are being taken to prevent such troubles.

It is to be hoped that the day may come when the use of non-returnable containers such as waxed cartons will finally eliminate the use of bottles.

BAKEHOUSES

Number of bakehouses on register 31.12.58	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Inspections recorded	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33
Premises repaired or improved	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Premises redecorated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Improved equipment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4

Only 13 bakehouses remain in operation. One has been substantially reconditioned and re-equipped during the year and several have been improved to some degree. One bakehouse has now become so unsatisfactory and inadequate that the owner has been advised to seek new premises. Undoubtedly the small village baker still has an important role to play since his products are often to be preferred to those of the large multiple firms. He faces many difficulties which are sympathetically appreciated so long as good standards of food hygiene are maintained.

PRESERVED FOOD PREMISES (Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955)

Total number on register 31.12.58	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	157
Sausage manufacturers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Fish Fryers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Sale only of ice cream	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	126

No problems have arisen in connection with these premises during the year since a satisfactory standard of hygiene had already been achieved by earlier action under the Food Hygiene Regulations. The remaining unsatisfactory fish frying establishment ceased to trade early in 1959 and new premises are under construction.

There are no premises in the area registered for the manufacture of ice cream and registrations are for sale only. No loose ice cream is sold from registered premises and supplies are pre-packed from one of three large manufacturers. No difficulty has been experienced in securing compliance with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations.

FOOD SHOPS, CAFES AND OTHER FOOD PREMISES

Since the introduction of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, there has been a very real transformation in the condition of food shops and similar premises. This has been brought about quietly and steadily as a result of the co-operation between the traders concerned and the department. It is difficult for the public to appreciate just what has been achieved in the last few years and much is taken for granted. Nevertheless, even the smallest village stores now has a markedly improved standard of hygiene, equipment and service which is a source of great satisfaction.

In only one case was it necessary to institute proceedings during the year. A grocery firm was prosecuted on 5 counts for offences under the Food Hygiene Regulations (mainly structural works) and convictions obtained. Fines amounting to 15 guineas and 8 guineas costs were imposed.

The following premises are subject to inspection by the department in addition to premises mentioned elsewhere in the report (bakehouses, preserved food premises, dairies, etc.):—

Food shops	.. .. .	135
Cafes and restaurants	.. .. .	24
Licensed premises (catering)	.. .. .	63
Clubs (excluding Old People's Clubs)	.. .. .	5
Residential establishments, hospitals, etc.	.. .. .	10
Factory canteens	.. .. .	9
School canteens	.. .. .	17

As a result of over 600 visits the following improvements were secured during the year:—

New shop premises	.. .. .	1
Structural improvements (new floors, ceilings and wall surfaces, etc.)	.. .. .	11
Installation of fixed hand basins	.. .. .	4
Hot water supplies	.. .. .	9
New working surfaces	.. .. .	7
Provision for clothing	.. .. .	2
New fittings, refrigerators, etc.	.. .. .	13
Redecoration	.. .. .	20
New sinks installed	.. .. .	5
New drainage and sanitary accommodation	.. .. .	2
Display of notices	.. .. .	1

Little statutory action was necessary to secure the above improvements and the happy relationship which is enjoyed with the traders has been of great value.

Two transport cafes are carrying out major improvements—in one case entirely new cafe premises, which is a source of great satisfaction.

Efforts have been made during the year by publicity to encourage improvement in the method of delivery of foodstuffs and the position is somewhat better, notwithstanding the difficulties peculiar to a large rural area.

The public generally are a good deal more hygiene conscious and a measure of the departments' success is reflected in the small number of complaints received. These are mainly confined to foreign matter found in packed foodstuffs commented on elsewhere.

LICENSED PREMISES

The present trend of surrendering the licences of the more unsatisfactory premises has continued and of the 155 premises recorded in the department's survey in 1946 only 130 now remain. Some 4 or 5 houses at present fail to reach a reasonable standard and their future is still under consideration—the remainder are now in excellent condition offering good standards of hygiene and accommodation. The department continues to inspect in order to ensure adequate glass washing facilities and sanitary accommodation and also where catering is carried on.

As will be seen from the list below a large number of improvements were secured during the year in collaboration with the Licensing Justices and it is pleasing to record that within a short period all licensed premises in the area will be satisfactory from the local authority's point of view.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year together with the improvements recorded:—

Number of inspections made	152
Premises substantially re-conditioned	6
Structural improvements	10
New or improved sanitary accommodation	15
New or improved drainage	8
New or improved glass washing facilities	10
Re-decoration, etc.	13

MEAT INSPECTION

The nine private slaughterhouses, re-opened somewhat hurriedly after derationing, remain in operation and cater for the needs of the area. In only one case is there any slaughtering for the London trade.

One other premises, in connection with an animal research establishment remains licensed for the occasional slaughter of animals where the carcase is intended for human consumption.

Casual slaughtering at Fulbourn Mental Hospital has been discontinued and the inspection service is no longer required.

As a result of the introduction of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, and the Construction and Hygiene Regulations, slaughterhouse owners have shown considerable interest in raising their premises to the requisite standard. In one case firm proposals have been submitted and approved and work is likely to commence shortly. In at least four other cases discussions are in hand preparatory to the submission of schemes. All the current Hygiene Regulations are being observed.

The chief inspector and the two district inspectors are all fully qualified in meat inspection and it has been possible to maintain 100% inspection of all animals slaughtered in the district. This involves considerable travelling but fortunately, very little overtime. A current proposal to establish a large new slaughterhouse in the area may well necessitate a further inspector to cope with the anticipated throughput.

Appended below is a summary of the animals slaughtered and carcasses inspected in the area for the year ending 31st December, 1958:—

TABLE NO. 7
SUMMARY OF MEAT INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED
YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1958

	Cattle not Cows	Cows	Calves	Pigs not Sows	Sows	Sheep Lambs
Animals killed and inspected	1,139	36	58	3,483	32	3,873
All Diseases except T.B. Whole carcasses and offal condemned	—	—	—	7	5	13
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned	157	2	—	180	3	29
% of number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	13.8	5.5	—	5.3	25	1.08
T.B. Only Whole carcasses and offal condemned	3	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned	51	—	—	48	—	—
% of number inspected affected with T.B.	4.7	—	—	1.35	—	—
Number of organs or parts condemned—All Diseases						
Head	50	—	—	42½	—	2
Lungs	35	—	—	7	—	—
Heart	32	—	—	1	—	3
Liver	89	2	—	163½	—	21
Spleen	6	—	—	—	—	—
Diaphragm	11	—	—	1	—	—
Kidney	3	—	—	3	1	—
Stomach	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mesentery	6	—	—	6	—	1
Other	15	—	—	9	2	3
TOTAL	247	2	—	233	3	30
Cysticercosis						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned				62 (5%)	1957 (37 - 3.4%)	
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration				22	(9)	
Generalised and totally condemned				Nil	(Nil)	

It will be seen that the total number of animals slaughtered and inspected (8,621) shows little variation over that for 1957 (7,694) and the quality has remained excellent. Only 36 cows and 32 sows were slaughtered in the year. 1,238 visits to slaughterhouses were recorded in order to maintain the full inspection service.

The incidence of animals affected with tuberculosis shows a slight increase (4.7% cattle and 1.35% pigs) but is of little significance when compared with the relatively small numbers involved.

The incidence of *Cysticercus bovis* has increased still further during 1958 and the 62 recorded cases represent 5% of the animals slaughtered. No generalised case was found and only 22 cases revealed viable cysts. These carcasses were submitted to refrigeration treatment in accordance with

the recommendations set out in Memo 3 Meat. The remaining 40 carcasses where only non-viable cysts were found were jointed under the supervision of the public health inspector and released. The absence of any serious evidence of the incidence of *Taenia saginata* in man renders it somewhat difficult to justify the undoubted inconvenience and loss sustained by butchers as a result of the measures taken in the slaughterhouse. The very willing co-operation of the traders is much appreciated more especially as the local insurance scheme seldom compensates fully for the loss sustained on cold storage.

It is to be hoped that further research in a national level will be instituted in order to determine the true relationship between the infected carcase and the incidence of the tapeworm in the human, before resistance from the trade spoils the present procedure.

Full advantage is taken of the facilities offered by the Public Health Laboratory Service in Cambridge and the Veterinary Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in the examination of bacteriological specimens, etc., and their assistance is greatly appreciated. Specimens from 45 casualty animals were submitted for bacteriological examination and 19 were found to have pathogens present (42.2%).

It is satisfactory to note that the meat derived from slaughterhouses in the area is of excellent quality and subject to 100% inspection.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933-54

Licences to slaughter renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
New licences issued	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Total on register 31.12.58	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29

No difficulty has been experienced in securing compliance with the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations and all licensed slaughterhouses have adequate lairage accommodation equipped for the feeding and watering of cattle awaiting slaughter. The only problems which have arisen have been in connection with the handling of casualty animals. Cases have been noted when an animal in distress has been transported a considerable distance to the slaughterhouse and has been caused great pain during loading and off loading. Consultations were held with the farmers and veterinary surgeons concerned and arrangements will be made in future for such animals to be stunned and bled on the farm before being transported to the slaughterhouse.

UNSOUND FOODSTUFFS

By far the majority of the foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption consisted of meat condemned in the slaughterhouses (reported elsewhere). In total this amounted to approximately 2 tons of beef 1½ tons of pork and ½ ton of mutton and lamb.

Apart from this the following were dealt with:—

Corned beef	6 lbs.
Grilse	3 lbs.
Smoked haddock	5¼ lbs.
Golden cutlets	8½ lbs.
Apricot pulp	34 tins

The advice of the department was sought on a number of occasions—notably in connection with a field of strawberries recently flooded by overflowing watercourses known to carry sewage effluents. The strawberries were released (mainly for jam manufacture) after sampling.

137 visits were made to various food premises for the purposes of sampling and special investigations were undertaken in connection with arsenic in potatoes and suspected food poisoning. So much foodstuffs today are processed and prepacked that, spoilage apart, there is little call upon the department to condemn goods. Mostly complaints are confined to mouldy goods—due to age or length of storage and foreign bodies finding their way into the goods during packaging. The deliberate production or sale of unfit foodstuffs today is almost unknown and is a measure of the progress made in this field.

